



BRIEFING: JANUARY 14, 2014 BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM #5

TO: Chairman Richard and Board Members

FROM: Mark McLoughlin, Director of Environmental Planning

DATE: January 14, 2014

RE: Award of Contract for Lazy K Permit Phase 1 Biological Resources Mitigation Project

Introduction

In November 2013, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) approved a resolution delegating to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) the authority to finalize and execute a contract with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting for the Lazy K Mitigation Proposal for a total contract not to exceed \$ 10,000,000. This contract is for the implementation of off-site mitigation measures related to jurisdictional waters and biological resources for the first construction package (CP 1) of the California High-Speed Rail Project.

The purpose of this agreement is to meet a number of biological mitigation obligations contained in the Merced to Fresno Section Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), and help fulfill the high-priority preservation of wildlife habitat called for under the California Endangered Species Act, the federal Endangered Species Act, and a number of other state and federal statutes.

Services under this agreement would include long-term management of the Lazy K Mitigation Site and acting as the holder of the conservation easement for the Site. Potential providers of these services are third party non-profit organizations who have the requisite experience in resource management.

This contract does not change the scope of the contract that the Board approved in November.

Analysis

Through negotiations and combined efforts of various stakeholders, the Authority staff has determined that it may be a more effective approach to execute more than one instrument to meet the biological mitigation obligations outlined in the November 7, 2013 Board briefing memorandum. The attached resolution allows for more than one agreement or instrument to be executed within the framework of the existing policies, regulations and total approved contract amounts currently in place through Resolution HSR # 13-31.

Recommendations

Authority Staff recommends that the Board approve a resolution allowing the Chief Executive Officer, or a designee of the Chief Executive Officer, to execute a series of agreements, easements or other instruments as necessary to fulfill the Authority's mitigation obligations identified in Resolution HSR # 13-31.

Attachments

Resolution HSR #13-31

Resolution HSR #14-03